

Blues use ineligible player

ANXIOUS WAIT FOR WYCOMBE

AN emergency committee of the Berks and Bucks F.A. meets this morning (Friday) to decide what action to take against Wycombe Wanderers for fielding an ineligible player in their County Senior Cup semi-final at Chesham on Saturday February 21.

Wanderers won that incident-packed match 4-2 at Chesham Meadow and so qualified to meet Hunger-

ford Town in the Senior Cup final at Slough on Easter Monday April 19.

But it has since come to the notice of the Berks and Bucks that Wanderers' mid-field player Graham Mackenzie was ineligible, having already played in the competition when on loan to Hungerford Town at the start of the season. Indeed Mackenzie scored in Town's 3-1 victory over Maidenhead Town in the first qualifying round.

Wycombe were ignorant of this fact and when it came to picking the side for the Chesham match, manager Brian Lee had no hesitation in picking Mackenzie in his flu-hit side. At the same time he left out Bruce Macrae, knowing that he had been cup-tied with Wantage.

Mr. Lee said this week: "Obviously we would not have played Mackenzie if we had known he was ineligible." He went on to point out the club were

desperately short of players at that time, and that his two substitutes were goalkeeper John Maskell and a flu victim Geoff Anthony.

MYSTERY

One mysterious point about this affair is how the Berks and Bucks discovered that Mackenzie was ineligible.

Chesham United chairman Mr. Don Flitney denied this week that his club had made an official protest. He said: "We suspected that Mackenzie had played for Hungerford earlier in the season and were unable to obtain confirmation of this before the deadline of the Tuesday after the game."

Wycombe secretary Mr. John Goldsworthy said the club had informed the Berks and Bucks of their views on the matters as requested, and were awaiting the outcome of the inquiry.

Hungerford who reached the final with a shock 1-0 win over Slough Town are hoping that they meet Wycombe in the final — a big event for the Rothmans Hellenic League club managed by George Pullen, a former Wanderers player.